



RETIRES ASSOCIATION

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Fred Tudiver. Present were Susan Burkey, Gail Burleson, Cynthia Burnley, Norma McRae, Priscilla Ramsey, Bonnie Stanley, Jeff Wardeska, Dave Kalwinsky, Charles Moore and Tisha Harrison.

Fred Tudiver called the meeting together at 3:30 via Zoom.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Bonnie Stanley moved to accept the minutes of the January 2021 meeting as printed

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive and Program Committee: Fred Tudiver reported:

- Hopefully we can resume fact-to-face meetings in September
- February Eat and Chat via zoom featured David Ramsey – Rocky Fork State Park
- For the April 21st Eat and Chat, Dr. Wayne Schubert will present “Evaluation and Paleobiology of Short Faced Bears.
- The Summer Luncheon will be “virtual” on June 11th. Todd Barber, Jet Propulsion Engineer, will do a presentation on Mars Expedition
- Hopefully the September Eat and Chat will be in-person with Anita Deangelos speaking even though she has retired and talk about her accomplishments with the Performing Arts Center.
- There is a possibility of a tour later in the Fall with Director of Events for ETSU, Jennifer Clements.
- The November Annual Meeting will most likely be in the Culp Center Ballroom as it is very impressive and has affordable pricing. A possible speaker is Dr. Robert Pack, Health Professor to talk about substance abuse.

Membership/Communications: Cynthia Burnley reported:

- 10 new members have been added to ETSURA
- There are 4 lifetime members for Jan. /Feb.
- 21 letters will be sent to January retirees

Finance Committee: Gail Burleson reported

- The account balances were \$3,043.76 in Retirees Association; \$24,300.38 in Life Memberships, Scholarship Endowment \$259,754.90 and \$12,453.60 in Endowment Operating.
- It appears ETSURA is in good financial shape
- \$30 in Postage was spent

University/Community Service Committee: Fred Tudiver reported

- All volunteer programs are currently on hold
- Charles Moore will check about the WETS Fundraiser

Liaison Committee: Priscilla Ramsey reported

- ETSU will be fully open in Fall 2021? Depends on who you talk to - will have to wait and see
- Some online courses have become very popular
- Dr. Noland is lobbying for Faculty vaccinations
- Board of Trustees – Virginia Foley represents the faculty.
- Occupational Therapy program has been approved
- The new police chief was present – Cesar Garcia – who comes from Lincoln Memorial University and is very keen on Community Policing
- The ETSU Foundation will be moving to the Model Mill
- **The ETSU basketball team kneeling during the playing of the National Anthem prompted considerable community controversy. In response, the Faculty Senate issued the following resolution which states (in part):**
Resolved: the Faculty Senate reaffirms ETSU's values and place as a safe harbor for students, faculty and staff and as such we will set the example for equity, inclusion and social justice and recommend that ETSU support students as they serve as ambassadors in our local and national communities.
Discussion followed by ETSURA members in support for student athletes and their right to express their opinions. ETSURA voted in favor of the Faculty Senate resolution.

TN Senate Chamber issued a letter to the University stating this form of protest is disrespectful. and was signed by 27 senators

It is suggested that all colleges put a policy in place to prevent this form of protest from happening again. One possibility is to not play the anthem when the players are on the court. It was stated it is against the law to require placing the hand over the heart and say the pledge.

The ETSURA Web Page is up and running. The newsletter is there.

There is still space in the next newsletter for articles.

The next ETSURA meeting will be March 30th at 3:30 via Zoom.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Burkey, Recording Secretary